

ELLIS SCHOOL

John Safina
Principal

Douglas Totten
Assistant Principal

Sarah Krebs
Special Education
Coordinator

September 9, 2011

Welcome Back

We had a very successful opening of school, as students and staff were eager to start the year. We welcomed our new administrators Mrs. Krebs and Mr. Totten, and I'm truly excited about working with these individuals to move Ellis School forward. Special thanks to all who worked over the Summer: Mrs. Ficker, Mrs. Blades, Mrs. Perry, Mr. Brown, Mr. Carey, Mrs. Knapp, Mr. Chambers, all the Summer School teachers (ESY and Title I), and all the staff who came in for Summer workshops. I hope all of you had a fun and restful Summer, and I look forward to an exciting school year!

2011-2012 Newsletters

Parents can expect communication throughout the month. You will receive a Newsletter from the Principal the first Friday of the month, the PTA will publish a newsletter on the third Friday of the month, and the School Newsletter will be sent out at the end of the month. Starting in October, we will be emailing all newsletters to families, so please make sure your correct email address is on the beginning-of-the-year paperwork. Kindly let us know if you need a hard copy of the Newsletters, should you have limited internet access.

Open House

Our Open House will be held on Wednesday, September 14, at 6:30 pm. You will be able to meet teachers, hear about procedures, and learn of events for the year. There will be two informational meetings before and after open house. At 6:00 pm, there will be a meeting for 6th grade parents in Mrs. Forsyth's classroom. Immediately following Open House at 7:30 pm, there will be a meeting for all 8th grade students and parents interested in participating in the Washington, DC trip.

Parent Forum

The Parent Forum will meet monthly with the Principal. The purpose of the Forum is for parents to be able to dialogue with the School Principal on issues and concerns that will lead to improved student learning. This is an opportunity to provide input on decisions, feedback on programs, and make recommendations for improvements to the Principal. I'm going to try something a little different this year. I will be alternating day and night meetings. Beginning in October, I will have a meeting during the school day, and in November, there will be an evening forum. A full schedule will be released at the beginning of October.

432 Main Street
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Fax
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www.sau83.org

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Peanut Allergies

As there are students in almost every grade with peanut allergies, we will make all classrooms peanut/nut free. Students may eat peanut/nut products in the Cafeteria, and there is a designated Peanut-Free table set up in the Cafeteria. Any student who eats a peanut/nut product for lunch, must wash their hands with soap and water after eating.

Constitution Day

On Friday, September 16th, members of our 8th grade class will present an exciting interactive and educational day for Pre-School through 8th grade students. The event will be running all day, and students will be visiting the event during their Unified Arts class. Parents are welcome to attend.

S.A.S.S. (Sexual Assault Support Services)

Ellis School is very excited to welcome back S.A.S.S. this school year for 5th through 8th grade students. Last school year, S.A.S.S. presented to grades 7 and 8; this was so well received by students, staff, and parents, that we have invited them back to present to all Middle School students. In 5th grade, presenters will focus on internet safety; in 6th grade, students will learn about bullying and sexual harassment; 7th graders will participate in the power game to explore positive and negative uses of power; and our 8th graders will discuss what a healthy relationship is. Presentations will take place on September 26th, 28th and 29th during Math class period.

This year we are also pleased to welcome S.A.S.S. into our 1st through 4th grade classrooms. At the Elementary level, S.A.S.S. offers a preventative program that uses age-appropriate tools to teach students about their personal boundaries, rights, and privacy needs. This includes personal body safety, rules about touching, trusting our natural instincts, and identifying a safe adult to turn to when necessary. Please take advantage of the Parent Night to learn more about their program. S.A.S.S. will be presenting to grades 1 through 4 in April.

On September 22, at 6:00 pm, there will be a S.A.S.S. Parent Information Night. A letter will also be sent home with all students a week prior to the presentations with more information and a sign-out option for parents. **THIS IS THE ONLY PARENT NIGHT OF THE YEAR FOR S.A.S.S. THERE WILL NOT BE AN ADDITIONAL PARENT NIGHT IN APRIL FOR GRADES 1 through 4.**

For more information on S.A.S.S., please visit www.sassnh.org.

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Guidance Morning Group (Middle School Students)

If your child arrives to school before the 7:50 am tardy bell, they are welcome to sign up for a daily Morning Guidance Group. This group will begin at 7:30 am and end by 7:50 am, Monday through Friday, and will provide an opportunity for students to have a daily check in and time to get organized before the school day begins. Space is limited and the sign up sheet is located outside of Mrs. Farrar's office door. This Morning Guidance Group will start the week of October 3rd and will end in seven weeks.

NWEA / AIMSweb

Our NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association) testing will take place this month. This is a computer-based assessment that students receive in the Fall and Spring. This assessment is done in grades 3 through 8. We will also be assessing our Kindergarten through 6th grade students with our AIMSweb testing. Here is a short description of our district assessments:

NWEA: Our flagship, State-aligned computer-based testing system, MAP, is built on 30 years of research and refinement, and adapts to the child in real-time as the test progresses for a pinpoint picture of learning achievement and readiness. For more information, please go to their website at www.nwea.org.

AIMSweb: AIMSweb is a benchmark and progress monitoring system based on direct, frequent, and continuous student assessment. The results are reported to students, teachers, and administrators via a web-based data management and reporting system to determine Response to Intervention (RtI). For more information, go to www.AIMSweb.com.

Drinking SunnyD Earns Free Books!!

Since 2009, eighty (80) free, grade-appropriate Scholastic books have been received by four Ellis School classroom's. In 2011, we would like to add at least three more classrooms to that list through the joint effort between Scholastic and SunnyD. If your family drinks the valid products below, please have your student bring the entire label, outer wrapper, or cardboard UPC to school and put in the SunnyD collection container in the lobby. For more information about this program which ends on 11/30, please visit <http://www.sunnyd.com/booksfree>

Valid Products (All Flavors):

Bottle labels from: 128 oz., 96 oz., 67.6 oz., 64 oz., 48 oz., 20 oz., and 16 oz.
UPC shrink-wrap label from: 6, 8, 12, and 24-pack of 6.75 oz., 11.3 oz., and 16 oz.
12 pack cardboard UPC from: 6.75 oz. bottles and 12 oz. cans

Invalid Products:

Individual labels from 6.75 oz. and 11.3 oz. bottles

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Important Dates

September 13 - School Board Meeting at 6:30 pm -Ellis School Library

September 14 - Open House - 6:30 pm

September 20 - Early Release

September 22- Sexually Assault Support Services (S.A.S.S.) Parent Night - 6:00 pm

September 26- S.A.S.S. presentation for student

September 27 – Fall Pictures

September 27 - School Board Meeting - 6:30 pm - Ellis School Library

September 28 - S.A.S.S. presentation for students

September 29 - S.A.S.S. presentation for students

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